Statement

The measures taken by the Govern' ment to save the foodgrains and crops from being devoured by the field rates are:

(a) A high level Central Rodent Control Advisory Board was constituted during 1974 to advise Central and State Governments on the policies to be adopted in orgainising rodent control programmes and to coordinate the efforts on the State Rodent Control Committees.

(b) All the States/Union Territories have set up the State level Rodent Control Committee for coordinating the work at State level.

(c) The Expert Committee under this Board has recommended both short and long term strategy for rodent control.

(d) There is adequate installed/ manufacturing capacity of rodenticidet in the country.

(e) For creating awareness on rodent problem and their control in the public, various mass communication media are being used.

(f) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research in consultation with Directorate of Plan Protection, Quarantine & Storage has prepared and recommeded National Plan for Rodent Pest Management with active community participation.

(g) An all India Coordinated Research Project on Rodent Control has been initiated by the ICAR at various Regional Centres throughout the country.

(h) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Control of Pests and Diseases of Agricultural Importance was in operation since 1970-71 to 1991-92 Rodent was one of the approved pest under this Scheme. The pattern of subsidy under this Scheme was at the rate of 25% Central subsidy on the cost of rodenticides and 33-1/3% operational subsidy as operational charges. From 1992-93 on wards this Scheme was transferred to States on resource transfer basis on the recommendations of the National Development Council (NDC).

(i) Under the "Save Grain Campaign" Scheme, the Ministry of Food at the Centre has been demonstrating proper food storage which include the use of rodent-proof storage stractu s and use of safe rodenticides.

Sagar Lying at FCI's Banna mines Godown in Jamshedpur

570. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar worth Rs. 3 crores lying at the FCI's Burma Mines godown in Jamshedpur has become unfit for consumption duo to delay in its distribution;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter to fix responsibility for the callousness resulting in huge loss; and

(c) if so, what are the detalii thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Food Corporation of India have reported that 1,535 M. Tonnes of sugar have become wet, sweated and sub-standard at FSD Jamshedpur during the course of storage and is not fit for distribution through the Public Distribution System.

(b)and(c) Sugar being a hygroscopic commodity is subject to deterio - ration due to moisture in the atmosphere, etc. and becomes wet and sweated. Such affected stock would be sold through tenders to bulk consumers, including confectioners.

An enquiry however has been ordered in the matter.